

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTWER 00473 301703Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 301500Z OCT 75  
FM AMCONSUL ANTWERP  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1156  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ANTWERP 0473

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BE

SUBJ: VISIT TO US OF "INVEST IN FLANDERS" MISSION, DECEMBER 1975.

1. UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE BELGIAN MINISTRY FOR FLEMISH REGIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, A FIVE MAN OFFICIAL "INVEST IN FLANDERS" MISSION WILL VISIT NEW YORK AND CHICAGO BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 AND 8.

2. THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WILL BE:

(A) MR. R. VAN OUTRYVE D'YDEWALLE  
(MISSION LEADER) IS  
"CHEF DE CABINET" (A RANK APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT TO A U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE). HE IS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FLEMISH REGIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN BRUSSELS.

(B) MR. M.JACOBS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PROVINCE OF LIMBURG (HASSELT).

(C) MR. W. RONSSE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE PROVINCE OF EAST FLANDERS (GHENT).

(D) MR. A. SCHODTS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE PROVINCE OF ANTWERP (ANTWERP CITY).

(E) MR. P. VERHAEGHE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST FLANDERS (BRUGGE).

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3. THE MISSION ARRIVES IN NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 1 AND LEAVES ON

DECEMBER THIRD.IT WILL BE IN CHICAGO FROM DECEMBER 4 TO DECEMBER 8 AND FOR THREE ADDITIONAL DAYS INDIVIDUAL MISSION MEMBERS WILL TRAVEL TO OTHER PARTS OF THE U.S. THE BELGIAN CONSULATES GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO ARE COORDINATING THE MISSIONS PROGRAM.

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO RENEW ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH ARE KNOWN TO BE CONSIDERING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN ONE OF THE FOUR PROVINCES OF FLANDERS. WITH THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECESSION BELIEVED TO BE ENDING, THE FOUR FLEMISH PROVINCES FEELS THAT POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE READY TO REOPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM CONCERNING ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN THE REGION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE NO USG ACTION REQUIRED, CONGEN REQUESTS USDOC INFORM NEW YORK AND CHICAGO DOC FIELD OFFICES OF MISSION S ARRIVAL AND, IF APPROPRIATE, ASK THAT FIEWD OFFICES EXTEND USUAL COURTESIES THROUGH BELGIAN CONGENS.  
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